

sexual violence and harassment, human trafficking, and more. Professor DeLaet has been passionate about gender equality and human rights from a young age. She developed her passion for international relations and global issues of human rights during her time at the University of Notre Dame where she received her master's in Peace Studies. She began teaching at Drake University in 1995, leading courses ranging from human rights to world politics.

In 2019, Professor DeLaet was brought on as the Executive Director of the Iowa UNA, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization that focuses on advocating for constructive U.S. global engagements and supporting the work of the UN. It is in this position that Professor DeLaet has been able to advocate for change on a larger scale. Gender equality and women's rights are two of the main focuses of the Iowa UNA, and Professor DeLaet takes pride in the organization's work which has focused on everything from refugees and human rights to female empowerment and environmental issues.

In addition to teaching college students, Professor DeLaet speaks to young people about the Iowa UNA and the importance of caring about global issues. She encourages students to get involved so they can be advocates for their own future, as well as for the future of Iowa and our country. Many current Iowa UNA members have been involved for decades, some since their charter in 1953. The longtime membership of many in the Iowa UNA inspires Professor DeLaet to remain resilient and tenacious, and their dedication to the important work of the UN shows the universality of the issues the Iowa UNA focus on.

Professor DeLaet's dedication to human rights, especially pertaining to women, is incredibly inspiring. She has been a lifelong advocate for equality among all people, and she continues to teach the next generation of leaders to support human rights and global involvement. Professor DeLaet hopes to see a new generation of Iowans get involved in the Iowa UNA and champion important issues such as gender equity. I am proud of the work that she and the Iowa UNA have done to continue these important discussions and stand up for decency and equality. Professor Debra DeLaet's many years of dedication and passion are exactly why we are inspired by her, and why I am honored to recognize her as our Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL WILLIAM
F. MCCOLLOUGH

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel William Ferree McCollough, United States Marine Corps, for his 30 years of service to our great nation and his family's faithful service as well. Colonel McCollough is a 1991 graduate of Norwich University where he graduated summa cum laude and was nominated for a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. The theme of his distinguished career has been one of achievement with highest honors throughout his three decades of unconditional service to the United States of America.

Literally every military school he attended, he distinguished himself by graduating with honors, which is an absolutely tremendous achievement. The schools he attained these high honors at are the Basic Officers' Course, the Amphibious Warfare School and the Marine Corps War College.

His deployments have been more numerous than most Marines. As a young officer, he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines where he deployed twice to Okinawa. In 1995, he was assigned to the elite Fleet Anti-Terrorist Security Team Company where he was involved in human trafficking interdiction operations working with the United States Coast Guard (USCG). One operation led him and his Marines to interdict a foreign freighter in the Atlantic that was carrying Chinese slave laborers. They assisted the USCG by ensuring the laborers were freed and their kidnappers were captured and brought to justice.

In 2002, Colonel McCollough was selected for the highly prestigious Marine Corps Congressional Fellowship. This selection entailed working in the hallowed halls of the U.S. Congress for a year in a congressional office. The competition for this program is very keen. Once again, he excelled, which led him to his current assignment as the Director of the Marine liaison office to the House of Representatives.

In 2006, then Major McCollough deployed to Iraq as a Military Transition Team leader. He and his team worked advising an Iraqi military unit. During one engagement, his unit came under fire from 122mm mortars where he sustained wounds and was awarded a Purple Heart.

Colonel McCollough has received a Legion of Merit with a "V" device for valor or heroism in combat. This was awarded when he was the Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines for the battle to seize the Nawa district in Afghanistan from the Taliban.

Colonel McCollough also has received the Bronze Star with a "V" device for leading the advisor element with an Iraqi Army unit in 2006. Colonel McCollough had several combat deployments. There were two to Iraq (2006 and 2008). There were two to Afghanistan (2009 and 2013/14) and one also to Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and other undisclosed locations.

He served on the Joint Staff in the Pentagon. There his vast experiences in Middle East operations was used to help formulate future plans in the region. Additionally, Colonel McCollough was deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in 2015 and 2016. This military operation is ongoing, with the goal to eradicate terrorists in the countries of Iraq, Syria and Libya.

Colonel McCollough has received combat action ribbons in two theaters of war—Iraq and Afghanistan where he was engaged in multiple combat actions.

Colonel McCollough's final tour in the Marine Corps is with us once again in the hallowed halls of Congress. During his tenure as the Director of the House Marine Liaison Office, Colonel McCollough has led the Marine Corps' efforts to modernize the Marine Corps and prepare our Corps for future wars. His duties have taken him to six continents and multiple countries supporting both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Marine Corps.

Colonel McCollough has served 30 outstanding years to our beloved nation and will retire on 1 June 2021. His wife, Caroline, and

sons Jack and Hunter deserve recognition too because their support for Colonel McCollough has been unwavering. They have lived through 10 moves and the extended absences of Colonel McCollough's many deployments. Their courage and determination are noteworthy.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize not only Colonel McCollough, but his entire family for their undeniably incredible service to the U.S. Marine Corps and our great nation. Their sacrifice and dedication to our nation is truly remarkable. I wish his beloved wife, Caroline, and their two sons Jack and Hunter, well, as all of them embark on a new chapter in their lives. God bless the McColloughs, God bless the United States of America, and Semper Fidelis.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2020 LITERACY COUNCIL OF
NORTHERN VIRGINIA RECOGNITION
AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV) and to congratulate the volunteers, instructors, students, community partners, and others who will be recognized at the 2020 LCNV Recognition Celebration.

The mission of LCNV is to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English so they can access employment and educational opportunities and more fully and equitably participate in the community. LCNV serves low-literacy and limited English language proficient adults with a selection of low-cost, moderately intensive courses to help them transition into the workforce or other educational opportunities. LCNV provides the crucial first steps of language and literacy proficiency for workplace, citizenship, and community integration to help adults make measurable improvements in their lives.

Each year LCNV recognizes students and members of the community who have contributed their time, energy, and resources to achieving the mission of LCNV. LCNV will also recognize the recipients of the Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship and the winner of the Mid Allen Ries Award that recognizes exceptional contributions to the advancement of LCNV. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2020 LCNV honorees and scholarship recipients:

Community Partnership Awards: Acumen Solutions, Crimsonbridge Foundation, City of Alexandria Workforce Development Center

Volunteers of the Year: Eileen Foxwell, Karen Lathrop, Nancy Rottenecker

Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship Recipients: Yesika Cruz, Norma Zavala

Mid Allen Ries Award: Dr. Carole Bausell

I also want to recognize those volunteers who are celebrating service anniversaries with LCNV. Volunteers are being recognized for service milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years respectively.

Volunteer Service Anniversaries:

25 years—Marilyn Stone

20 years—Elizabeth McBurney, Andrea Mehrer, Elizabeth Nelson